

Mr. Stacey

My name is Paul Bonini and I am the superintendent at Watertown Golf Club in Watertown Connecticut. Our club is very concerned with the current proposed stream flow standards and regulations which may impact our club during such a declining period of golf due to current economic times. For close to thirty years Watertown Golf Club along with several courses throughout the state have complied with DEP instructed water diversions issued under the DEP direction during the early 1980's. Where or what went so wrong along this procedure has not been answered.

In the years since our current diversion was issued Watertown Golf Club has done several moves to improving our water usage through several Best Management Practices. Our largest and best tool was installing a state of the art irrigation system which allowed the club to irrigate using smaller irrigation heads resulting in less volume and having the ability to irrigate precisely where needed. The results for us just over the last three years have been dramatic. Other BMP that have been used at Watertown Golf Club are establishing native areas, using updated research with the use of wetting agents, use of polymer coated fertilizers which release under soil temperature and are not solely reliant on water for breakdown. All of these practices have helped golf course be stewards of the environment. Watertown Golf Club covers approximately 200 acres and we irrigate approximately 20% of the property using less water than we did 10 years ago.

There have not been requests from the DEP or any other agency on water use reports in the past years so how can a conclusion be based on diversion if the current usage is not up to date? Our club would feel more comfortable with this process if the low flow streams areas are addressed first and if we are in a low flow area we would work with the DEP to find an amount to address all recreation, aquatic, and open space demands.

It is our club's belief that the current practices performed at Watertown Golf Club and the dramatic results we have seen are indicative of what is performed throughout the state's golf courses and the DEP should exempt golf courses from this proposed regulation because we already achieve the results the regulation is seeking.

Thank you.



Paul Bonini, CGCS

Watertown Golf Club

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

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